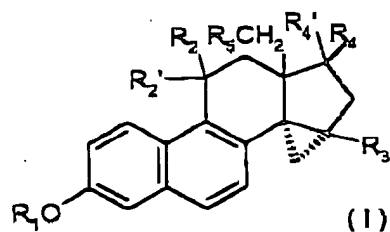


In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 16 to 19 without prejudice. No other claim changes are being made, but the remaining unchanged claims are listed herein below:

Claims 1 to 9 (previously canceled).

10(previously added). An equilenin derivative of formula I:



wherein

R₁ denotes a hydrogen atom, a C₁-C₅-alkyl group, a C₁-C₅-acyl group or a benzoyl group,

R₂ denotes a hydrogen atom and R'₂ denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a C₁-C₅-acyloxy group or R₂ and R'₂ together denote an oxo group,

R₃ denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

R_4 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_4 denotes a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_{11} -acyloxy group or R_4 and R'_4 together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

R_5 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

11(previously added). The equilenin derivative as defined in claim 10, wherein said R_5 is said hydrogen.

12(previously added). An equilenin derivative selected from the group consisting of

14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3, 11 β ,17 β -triol,

11 β ,17 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate,

11 β ,17 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl propionate,

3,11 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17 β -yl decanoate,

3,11 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17-one,

3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11 α ,17 β -
diyl diacetate,

15 β -methyl-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
3,11 β ,17 β -triol,

11 β -fluoro-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,17 β -
diol,

3,17 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11-
one,

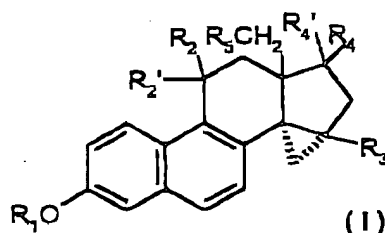
3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
11 α ,17 α -diyl diacetate,

3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylen-11-oxoestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
17 α -yl acetate,

11 β -hydroxy-17,17-difluoromethylene-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3,
5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate and

14 α ,15 α -methylene-17,17-bis-methyleneestra-1,3,5(10),6,8-
pentaene-3,11 α -diol.

13(previously added). A method of making an equilenin derivative of formula I:



wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_5 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_5 -acyl group or a benzoyl group,

R_2 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_2 denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_5 -acyloxy group or R_2 and R'_2 together denote an oxo group,

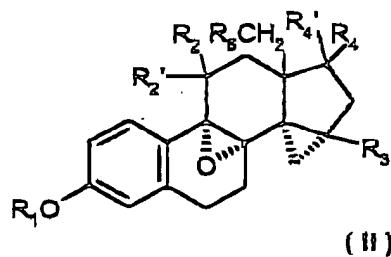
R_3 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

R_4 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_4 denotes a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_{11} -acyloxy group or R_4 and R'_4 together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

R_5 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

said method comprising the steps of:

a) reacting diphosphorus tetraiodide in the presence of pyridine with a compound to formula II:



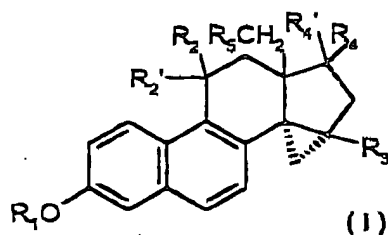
to form an intermediate product, and

b) converting the intermediate product to said equilenin derivative of said formula I.

14(previously added). A pharmaceutical composition comprising

at least one member selected from the group consisting of pharmaceutically compatible agents and carriers; and

at least one equilenin derivative of formula I:



wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_5 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_5 -acyl group or a benzoyl group,

R_2 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_2 denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_5 -acyloxy group or R_2 and R'_2 together denote an oxo group,

R_3 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

R_4 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_4 denotes a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_{11} -acyloxy group or R_4 and R'_4 together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

R_5 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

15(previously added). A pharmaceutical composition comprising
at least one member selected from the group consisting of
pharmaceutically compatible agents and carriers; and
at least one equilenin derivative selected from the group
consisting of:

14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3, 11 β ,17 β -triol,
11 β ,17 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
3-yl benzoate,
11 β ,17 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
3-yl propionate,
3,11 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
17 β -yl decanoate,
3,11 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17-
one,
3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11 α ,17 β -
diyl diacetate,
15 β -methyl-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-
3,11 β ,17 β -triol,

11 β -fluoro-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,17 β -diol,

3,17 β -dihydroxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11-one,

3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-11 α ,17 α -diyl diacetate,

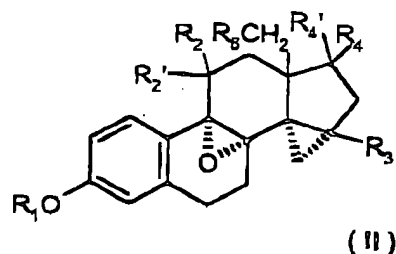
3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylen-11-oxoestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-17 α -yl acetate,

11 β -hydroxy-17,17-difluoromethylene-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1, 3, 5(10),6,8-pentaene-3-yl benzoate and

14 α ,15 α -methylene-17,17-bis-methyleneestra-1,3,5(10),6,8-pentaene-3,11 α -diol.

Claims 16 to 19 (canceled).

20(previously added). A cyclopropano steroid of formula II:



wherein

R_1 denotes a hydrogen atom, a C_1 - C_5 -alkyl group, a C_1 - C_5 -acyl group or a benzoyl group,

R_2 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_2 denotes a fluorine atom, a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_5 -acyloxy group or R_2 and R'_2 together denote an oxo group,

R_3 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group,

R_4 denotes a hydrogen atom and R'_4 denotes a hydroxyl group or a C_1 - C_{11} -acyloxy group or R_4 and R'_4 together denote an oxo group, a methylene group, a halomethylene group or a dihalomethylene group and

R_5 denotes a hydrogen atom or a methyl group.

21(previously added). A cyclopropano steroid selected from the group consisting of

11 α -hydroxy-3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylene-8 α ,9 α -oxidoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-17 α -yl acetate, 3-methoxy-14 α ,15 α -methylene-8 α ,9 α -oxidoestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-11 α ,17 α -diyl diacetate and 3-methoxy-11 α -hydroxy-8 α ,9 α -oxido-14 α ,15 α -methylenestra-1,3,5(10)-trien-17 β -yl acetate.